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Col. Fred. G. E. Tittel.

Memorial Tribute

To

Col. Fred. G. E. Tittel,

(Deceased)

BY A FRIEND.

Col. Fred. G. E. Tittel.

THE recent death of Col. TITTEL, whose remains were borne to their final resting place by the fraternity of the Ancient Order of Druids, and interred with military honors on Sunday last, requires something more than a mere passing notice, which would soon pass into silent forgetfulness.

California is justly proud of her pioneers, who laid the foundations of her noble State and planted the seat of empire upon the golden sands that are washed by the waves of the almost boundless Pacific. The Veterans of the Mexican War, who carved this territory from the broad domain once owned by Spain and the Mexican Republic, were among the first to seek and reap the fruits of their victorious arms which compelled a peace, and, by magnanimous treaty with the conquered foe, paid with gold as well as blood for this fair land, now reclaimed from wild beast and savage, and dotted with prosperous cities and towns, and hundreds of thousands happy homes. Among these Veterans of the Mexican War and Pioneers, was the subject of our sketch, who was personally and intimately the friend of the writer, who first became acquainted

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with Col. TITTEL in the City of New York in the month of February, 1846. At that time he was but a mere boy, who had immigrated with his father to the United States, from Germany, and who at that time could talk but little English. The threatened war with Mexico, which broke out into open hostilities on the 8th and 9th of May following, with successful results in the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, roused the whole nation to arms which had been at peace with all other nations for a period of 32 years.

The writer left New York to join Worth's Division under Taylor early in the Spring, and parted with Col. TITTEL, who had enlisted then as a fifer in the regular service. In July, 1846, he was assigned to Co. F, 3d U. S. Artillery as a musician, in the same Company to which Lieuts. Wm. T. Sherman, E. O. F. Ord and Henry Wager Halleck were assigned, and who have since risen to such high distinction and honor in the annals of their country's history, as successful Generals in the late Civil War.

In January, 1847, this Company of Artillery landed at Monterey, the then Capital of California, which was then in possession of our navy, and protected by the guns of the U. S. Vessels of War in the harbor, to which the Officers and Crews retired, upon turning over the command to the troops who were the first of the U. S. Army to land in California. Three months afterwards, Col. Jonathan

D. Stevenson arrived and landed with the Second New York Regiment of Volunteers.

At the close of the war in 1848, after Col. Tittel's term of service had expired, he, with Mr. Reid, and many others, tried his fortune in the gold mines, and was particularly successful on account of good fortune combined with indomitable perseverance and untiring industry. He obtained by his labors a very large amount of gold dust, with which he assisted his father in the improving of property held by him, acquired in this city, as well as his own, and was in a great measure, as expressed by those who knew him intimately and well, the founder of the fortunes of the Tittel family.

From the very beginning, Col. TITTEL was identified with the National Guard of the Territory, and long before California became a State. Col. TITTEL, with the writer and other Veterans of the Mexican War, uniting in the first public celebration of the Fourth of July in San Francisco, in 1850, when the first independent uniformed military company—the "California Guard"—appeared on parade in this City. That company was the nucleus around which gathered other organizations, whose very names are forgotten and obliterated from the long roll of those who have been "mustered out."

In 1856, Col. Tittel was commissioned by Gov. Johnson as a Lieutenant, and served under his

former officer, Wm. T. Sherman, who had been appointed Major-General of the State Militia by the same authority, during the Vigilance Committee times in San Francisco, but following the example of his superior, he resigned. Subsequently, he was commissioned a Captain of the Fusileers, a company composed chiefly of German citizens, and which, under his command, attained to a high degree of military efficiency and discipline, and became one of the organizations of the National Guard, of which San Francisco had reason to be justly proud. The careful study and constant practice of military tactics, and the attention which he gave to his company, prepared the way to a higher grade of command, when the late civil war broke out, and when California's destiny was suspended in the balance of political as well as military strife. The loyal German element in San Francisco was ready to perform its duty at all costs in preserving peace and maintaining the honor and integrity of the Nation, and believed in no segregation or secession from the Union, under a new and strange flag to be known as the ensign of "The Pacific Republic," the abortion of disappointed political aspirants, who sympathized with the rebellion of the Southern States. A regiment composed of loyal naturalized Germans was promptly organized, and by the general and almost unanimous vote of all, Fred. G. E. Tittel was elected as its Colonel, and was com-

missioned by the Governor. The moral effect of this strong citizen military force ready for action and duty, helped to preserve the peace, and held California in the Union, and the service of Col. TITTEL, with hundreds and thousands of others, were appreciated at the time, though they may have become forgotten now.

Col. TITTEL was the intimate friend of the late General Halleck, and at one time honorably and faithfully represented his constituency in the Legislature of California, as Assemblyman from the City and County of San Francisco. During his legislative term of office, a military bill drawn up by the late General Halleck was introduced by Col. TITTEL, and afterwards (if I am not mistaken), became the law of the State. Gen. Halleck was its author, but Col. TITTEL's connection with it caused it to be generally known as "Tittel's Military Bill." He also, at one time, was elected to and filled the position of an honorable member of the Board of Supervisors of this city, and was faithful to its interests, reflecting credit and honor upon his station.

COL. TITTEL was a good citizen, a true and loyal patriot to his adopted country; a kind husband and an affectionate father; a firm, faithful, true and unwavering friend, of strong will, and governed by the noblest impulses; prudent, careful and honorable in his dealings with all men—a mean thing he could

not do. His sense of justice and right, with a will to act accordingly, caused him to judge relative, friend or foe alike in all his dealings with those with whom he was brought in contact or with whom he had to do. He had his faults like other men. Coming to our shores when a mere lad and unable to speak our tongue. Enlisting while a mere boy in the U. S. Army, and sent on a long voyage around Cape Horn to California, then a comparative wilderness. No opportunity of acquiring an education or attending school. Occasionally getting a little instruction from Sherman, Ord and Halleck while on board ship, and what little else he was able to pick up from his fellow comrades of the rank and file while in the army in the humble capacity of a musician. A public free school as a scholar he knew nothing of. He delved and labored, and, as it were, literally dug out his education from the hard cemented adobe cracked soil of California, and developed into manhood surrounded by circumstances the most untoward and difficult almost that can be conceived, with almost everything to corrupt and blunt his moral and better nature on every hand. Surely and truthfully may it be said that he was a "self-made man." He was charitable and kind to his native countrymen who were less fortunate than himself. To avarice he was a stranger. He was a true pioneer and a whole-souled Californian; but, above all, he was a sterling patriot soldier-citizen and

an American in the fullest sense of the term. He died a brave, true man; he was borne to his final home and consigned to his tomb with the respect and tribute and military honors due to his memory. His loss will be mourned by many and those who knew him best and well.

San Francisco was but a miserable hamlet surrounded by hills and dunes of drifting sands, and California a howling wilderness when he came, and the military power the only dispenser of civil law. He helped to build this great metropolis of the Pacific Coast and to found a State, and in the prime of his manhood he leaves the labors of his hands and the results of the best efforts of his intellectual powers, and warm heartedness behind, that others may enjoy the fruits of the tree, whose seeds were planted and were watered by his hands.

The honored name of "California Pioneer" will shine with greater lustre on the golden tablet set with gems of the long list of the illustrious men who have joined that "innumerable caravan" who have gone before.

So, then, rest in honor and in peace, while we pay this poor tribute to thy praise, and lay this chaplet on thy tomb.

THY FRIEND.

San Francisco, November 1st, 1877.

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